

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 55 and 64 as follows:

Claims 1-49 (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting and assay of fluids, comprising:

a housing having a fluid receiving end and an assay portion;

a lateral flow assay strip contained substantially within the assay portion, the assay strip containing at least one reagent that is used to detect one of the presence and absence of at least one analyte in a fluid; and

a collection strip for transporting the fluid from a fluid source to the assay strip, the collection strip including:

a first, narrow end contained within the housing and in fluid communication with the assay strip,

a second, enlarged end protruding from the fluid receiving end; and

a blocking strip coupled between and in flow communication with the lateral flow assay strip and the collection strip.

51. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the collection strip comprises a capillary matrix adapted for rapid wicking of fluid from a fluid source to the assay strip.

52. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the fluid source is an oral cavity.

53. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the second end is one of a paddle-shape and substantially bulbous shape.

54. (Previously Presented) A device for assay of oral fluid, comprising:

an assay portion housing a lateral flow assay strip, the assay strip containing at least one reagent that is used to detect one of the presence and absence of at least one analyte in a fluid; and

a neck portion extending from the assay portion, the neck portion forming a channel for delivery of fluid to the assay strip, the channel being defined by a first, narrow part proximal to the assay portion and a second part including an opening for receiving the oral fluid, wherein the second part includes a channel width that is substantially wider than the channel width at the narrow end;

a collection strip in fluid communication with the lateral assay strip, the collection strip having a first portion disposed within the channel and a second portion protruding outwardly from the neck portion opening; and

a blocking strip coupled between and in flow communication with the lateral flow assay strip and the collection strip.

55. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 54, wherein the collection strip second portion is paddle shaped.

56. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the width of the neck portion tapers from the opening width to the narrow end width.

57. (Withdrawn) A method for rapid collection and assay of oral fluids, comprising the steps of

forming an assay device including a lateral flow assay strip, a capillary matrix in fluid communication with the assay strip, and a body for housing the assay strip, wherein at least a portion of the capillary matrix protrudes outwardly from the assay device;

placing the assay device in an oral cavity;

removing the assay device from the oral cavity; and

reading the test results.

58. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the assay strip is an immunochromatography strip.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, further comprising a sample adequacy indicator.

60. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the reagent is an immunospecific binding partner which bears a detectable label.

61. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 60, wherein the reagent is an enzyme labeled binding partner.

62. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the reagent comprises one of an antigen and an antibody.

63. (Original) The device of claim 54, wherein the blocking strip contains at least one blocking agent or a buffer.

64. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 50, wherein the blocking ~~[[strip]]~~ strip contains at least one blocking agent or a buffer.

65. (Original) The device of claim 54, wherein the collection strip is adsorbent.

66. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the collection strip is adsorbent.